

September 2014

ECA Bulletin

Local Concerns. National Impact



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SECRETARY MONIZ SPEAKS AT INTERMOUNTAIN ENERGY SUMMIT IN IDAHO FALLS

The Intermountain Energy Summit took place August 19-20, 2014 in Idaho Falls, ID at the Shilo Inn & Convention Center. 150 scientists, government leaders, and energy company officials came together to take part in regional dialogue on energy topics including budgets, waste management, and energy transmission. The conference included eight panel discussions and discourse over the course of two days. Some of the featured speakers were Mayor of Idaho Falls Rebecca Casper, U.S. NRC Commissioner Kristine Svinicki, Idaho Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter, Rep. Mike Simpson, Senators Crapo and Risch and, Secretary of Energy Dr. Ernest Moniz.

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Mayor Rebecca Casper Welcomes Secretary Moniz to Idaho Falls Summit

ECA COMMUNITIES CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE FOR MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

ECA Communities from Oak Ridge, TN, Los Alamos, NM, and the Tri-Cities, WA are united in their efforts to support the creation of a Manhattan Project National Historical Park. From meeting with members of Congress, to working with other organizations that support the Park, to hosting events to showcase the historic properties, Oak

Ridge, Los Alamos, and the Tri-Cities are pulling out all the stops to get the Park established.

The Manhattan Project legislation has strong bipartisan, bicameral support. The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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Executive Committee



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Communities
Alliance

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Legislative Update

Congress returned to D.C. on September 8 for a two week session to find a way to keep the government funded past the end of the current fiscal year which ends on September 30. While many Members hoped they would address some other hot button items, namely Defense Authorization, this legislative session was quickly overshadowed by foreign and national security affairs.

Government Funding Bill Passed – Another CR

Congress passed a Continuing Resolution (CR), H.J. Res. 124, which funds government operations through December 11. The Senate easily passed the resolution on Thursday, September 18, by a vote of 73-22. The House passed the bill a day earlier by a margin of 319-108. An amendment authorizing support for Syrian rebels cleared both chambers relatively easily, despite some early expectations that it would slow or possibly derail the bill. President Obama signed the CR on Friday, September 19.

The CR caps funding for programs and services at an annual rate of \$1.012 trillion, less than one percent below last year's spending levels. House Appropriations Chair Hal Rogers (R-KY) sought to keep the bill free of controversial riders and avoided seeking any changes to existing policy. ECA staff has asked for a summary of the impact the CR will have on Department of Energy (DOE) programs and will distribute it to members as soon as it becomes available.

While the bill is largely "clean," it does include certain "anomalies," including two provisions for the Department of Energy (DOE). The first provides DOE some flexibility with regards to its Portsmouth site, allowing Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Funds to be allocated at the rate necessary to avoid disrupting continuing projects.

The second concerns recovery at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, New Mexico. Last February, a storage drum containing radioactive material ruptured, causing a spill in the

underground portion of the repository and a leak into the above-ground environment. The CR unveiled Tuesday allows funds to be obligated at a rate to assure the necessary activities to restore and upgrade the repository. The exact language can be found below:

"SEC. 121. (a) Funds made available by section 101 for "Department of Energy--Energy Programs--Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund" may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid disruption of continuing projects or activities funded in this appropriation. (b) The Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 3 days after each use of the authority provided in subsection (a).

SEC. 122. (a) Funds made available by section 101 for "Department of Energy--Environmental and Other Defense Activities--Defense Environmental Cleanup" for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant may be obligated at a rate for operations necessary to assure timely execution of activities necessary to restore and upgrade the repository. (b) The Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on each use of the spending rate authority provided in this section that exceeds customary apportionment allocations."

Funding for other DOE activities, including NNSA, EM, and NE, remains at FY14 appropriations levels.

Congress will return in November for a post-election, "lame duck" session to consider a full year omnibus spending bill and other pressing items before year's end. Both chambers are scheduled to return on November 12. Senate Appropriations Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Chairman Rogers are already working to create a 12 bill omnibus that includes appropriations for the entire government. Some Members have expressed

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ECA Communities Continue to Advocate for Manhattan Project National Historical Park

passed the park legislation (S. 507) on May 16, 2013, and the House passed similar legislation (H.R. 1280) on April 24, 2013. On May 22, 2014, the House passed the legislation as Section 3471 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) (H.R. 1960). Oak Ridge, Los Alamos and the Tri-Cities are encouraging their senators and senators from other energy community states to work with Senator Carl Levin and the Armed Services Committee and support its passage as part of the NDAA.

Representatives from all three communities, along with other organizations including the Atomic Heritage Foundation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Parks Conservation Association have been meeting as a group with members of Congress and their staff to discuss the Manhattan Project National Historical Park legislation. It has been helpful for this group of organizations to speak with one voice to support the Park. During these meetings ECA members and others have expressed strong support creation of the Park this year. ECA Members and other Park supporters also plan to meet with members while they are in their districts during the recess.

ECA communities are also hosting events at their sites to commemorate anniversaries of Manhattan Project events. For example, the B-Reactor first went critical 70 years ago on September 26, 1944. To commemorate the event, Senators Cantwell and Murray delivered a colloquy on commemorating Hanford B Reactor's 70th Anniversary (see story on p. 9). The DOE Richland Operations Office, the B Reactor Museum Association and the Hanford History Partnership are also hosting an event at the B Reactor on Friday, September 26 (see event advertisement on p. 4). The sold-out event will feature tours of the B Reactor and a history presentation.

Oak Ridge, Los Alamos, and the Tri-Cities, along with other groups including the Regional Coalition of LANL Communities and a group of business from the Tri-Cities groups, have also been engaging in letter writing and media campaigns to support the park. ECA has drafted a letter that communities from communities outside of the Tri-Cities, Oak Ridge and Los Alamos to send to their senators to express support for the establishment of the Park. Please contact Allison Finelli at allison@energyca.org if your community is interested in writing a letter of support.

ECA members have been working very hard to get the Manhattan Project National Historical Park legislation passed. Please support their efforts!

Management Shakeup at Los Alamos

Weapons Complex Monitor is reporting that four Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) clean up managers have been relieved of their duties following issues with the site's transuranic waste program. The cleanup mission has come under heavy scrutiny after a drum processed at LANL was tied to a radiological release at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant earlier this year. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz has also shifted responsibility for cleanup at LANL from the National Nuclear Security Administration to the Office of Environmental Management.

In a message to stakeholders early Friday, September 26, acting EM Assistant Secretary Mark Whitney said:


"Today Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz directed the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of

Environmental Management (EM) and DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) to develop a plan for the transition of legacy environmental cleanup work at the Department's Los Alamos site from NNSA to EM.

"This change will align the focus and accountability of the cleanup with EM and enable the Los Alamos site prime contractor, Los Alamos National Security (LANS), to continue its focus on the core national security missions at the site."

The transition plan is expected to be completed in mid-November. ECA staff will monitor the situation and keep members updated as the situation develops.


More information on this story can be found in the [September 26 update](#) or [here](#).



70th Anniversary of the Initial Start of Hanford's B Reactor National Historic Landmark

The U.S. Department of Energy's Richland Operations Office, the B Reactor Museum Association and the Hanford History Partnership are proud to announce an event to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of a transformative moment in American History: The initial start of the Hanford B Reactor, the world's first full-scale plutonium production reactor. After 11 frenzied months of top-secret work as part of the Manhattan Project, on September 26, 1944, the B Reactor's control rods were pulled out and the atomic age was ushered in.

On September 26, 2014, join us, as we go back to the place where it all happened for a special evening of local food and wine, of music and memories, of tours and tributes, and a reflection on how far we've come in the work to preserve the B Reactor National Historic Landmark's compelling story for future generations.



Friday
September 26, 2014

Buses will depart the Hanford Reach Interpretive Center (REACH), 1943 Columbia Park Trail
3:30 p.m. check in; 4:00 p.m. departure.
Return to town by 9:30 p.m.

***Guests are invited to enjoy the REACH prior to the event at a special reduced rate of \$6*

Transportation to and from the B Reactor National Historic Landmark, heavy appetizers by Atomic Ale Brewpub and Eatery, two tickets for locally-crafted beer or wine, tours of the B Reactor, 1940s music by the Mid-Columbia Master Singers, and formal program on the B Reactor grounds. **DUE TO THE AVAILABILITY OF ALCOHOL, YOU MUST BE AT LEAST 21 YEARS OF AGE TO ATTEND THIS EVENT.**

Limited tickets available through the Tri Cities Development Council until Sunday, September 21st. Tickets are \$40 each. Go to www.manhattanprojectbreactor.hanford.gov

Dress is business casual; dressing in layers strongly suggested due to cool evening temperatures. Government-issued ID required at the time of check-in. **Cameras welcome!**

Thank you to our sponsors – Bechtel; the B Reactor Museum Association; Atomic Ale Brewpub and Eatery; Mission Support Alliance; Lockheed Martin; TRIDEC; Energy Solutions; Visit Tri-Cities; The Port of Benton and Prominence Public Relations!

NEW ECA STAFF MEMBER



We're pleased to welcome Devon Hill to the staff of the Energy Communities Alliance as Program Manager. He'll be responsible for server updates, assisting with the monthly bulletin, and anything else Seth and Allison decide to throw at him.

He joins us after three years as a staffer with the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. There, Devon assisted with a number of congressional investigations, including the Committee's oversight

of the DOE's 1705 loan programs. He has also assisted with countless hearings on government operations, oversight of national security programs, and prevention of waste, fraud, and abuse.

Devon graduated from Frostburg State University with a degree in Political Science and is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Security Studies at Georgetown University. When he is not studying, sleeping, or searching for free food, he can be found biking any random trail around DC or kayaking on the Anacostia or Potomac River. He's a native of Baltimore, Maryland and loves soft-shell crab sandwiches and Old Bay seasoning. Feel free to reach out to him at devon@energyca.org or follow him on twitter [@devonhill64](https://twitter.com/devonhill64).

SENATE LAUNCHES NATIONAL LABORATORY CAUCUS



Secretary Moniz welcomes directors from the National Labs and thanks Senators Durbin and Risch for their support for the National Lab system.

On Tuesday, September 16, Energy Secretary Moniz joined Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Senator Jim Risch (R-ID) for National Lab Day on the Hill. Lab Directors and representatives from all 17 DOE National Laboratories were on hand to showcase projects on energy innovation, environmental sustainability, national security, and other issues.

According to the DOE: "With origins in the Manhattan Project during World War II, the National Labs maintain multidisciplinary research capabilities with state of the art scientific tools and experts focused on some of the country's more important priorities in science, energy and national security. National Lab scientists have won 80 Nobel Prizes in the sciences and

generated technological advances that have led to entire new industries."

During the event, the Senators also formally launched the Senate National Laboratory Caucus. Since forming the caucus, Senators Mark Kirk (R-IL), Chris Coons (D-DE), Tim Johnson (D-SD), Michael Bennet (D-CO), Tom Udall (D-CO), Martin Heinrich (D-NM), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), and Mike Crapo (R-ID) have all joined.

"Over the past 70 years, the Energy Department's national lab system has been an integral part of American innovation and success. The world-class facilities serve as a meeting place for researchers from around the globe as they work to address our biggest challenges in energy, scientific discovery, and national security," said Durbin. "I am proud to join Senator Risch in establishing the Senate National Laboratory caucus. By working together across the aisle, we can make certain that U.S. labs - like Illinois' own Argonne and Fermi - continue to build on their successes and remain world leaders in cutting edge research."

"Department of Energy national laboratories from coast-to-coast contribute groundbreaking scientific research in a number of disciplines, including energy innovation, national security, and basic science research," said Risch. "In order to conduct this research, our national labs are equipped with unique assets - be it their location, one of a kind instruments or, most importantly, the world's leading scientists. My home state is fortunate to have the Idaho National Laboratory located in Idaho Falls, the nation's lead nuclear laboratory and a world leader in securing the ever-growing cyber network. I am glad to have the opportunity to join with Senator Durbin in co-chairing the Senate National Laboratory Caucus and furthering support of our national labs in the United States Senate."

More information on the National Lab Day can be found [here](#).



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Secretary Moniz Speaks at Intermountain Energy Summit in Idaho Falls



Secretary Moniz addresses meeting participants

Seasoned journalist Robert Bryce was the first featured speaker. Bryce drew attention to the trend of technological progression that is characteristic of our species. Bryce contended that due to economic pressures and the pace of development, non-renewable energy sources would continue to hold a dominant share of the larger energy portfolio. He promoted technology as the main solution to energy and environment issues, a sentiment that permeates a lot of his work. He advocated increasing the efficiency of energy dense resources through technological advancements, an idea that resonated well with the Department of Energy.

Secretary Moniz, who has a well-developed background in science and technology, covered many of the energy and environment issues brought up by the Bryce. Dr. Moniz provided an in-depth discussion on dense energy but also spoke of the importance of investing in a variety of energy resources. According to Dr. Moniz, this approach is important because different parts of the country have different energy and environmental demands. Dr. Moniz took questions from the audience and provided a strong value proposition for the EPA's proposed 111d ruling. He also made a strong case for energy research investments in a tight budgetary environment. The last comment was made with a glance at Representative Mike Simpson who chairs the House Energy and Water Development

subcommittee responsible for funding DOE research efforts.

One of the projects discussed was the reactivation of the Transient Test Reactor (TREAT). TREAT has not operated for about 20 years but is scheduled to be up and running by 2018. Other favorable projects for the nuclear industry mentioned by Secretary Moniz included the construction of nuclear power plants in Georgia and South Carolina.

The nuclear industry has not been heavily invested in due to concerns over nuclear waste and contamination. Dr. Moniz addressed those issues asserting that efforts taking place to honor Idaho's commitment to remove transuranic waste from the state by Dec. 31, 2018 through the revamping of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). As for the cancelation of Yucca Mountain, Dr. Moniz stated that there is a plan to start a consolidated interim storage area that can begin once Congress is on board.

Waste management and contamination, however, are not the only issues that must be addressed in order to facilitate the production and distribution of nuclear-produced energy. The state of transmission lines must be maintained and updated in order to appropriately cope with loss of power should it occur. However, increasing transmission capacity



Representative Mike Simpson addresses meeting participants

to meet demands is not always easy. For example, Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter expressed frustration with the amount of time it has taken to approve the Gateway West transmission line.

According to Richard Walje, CEO of Rocky Mountain Power, it took six years to run 1000 miles

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Secretary Moniz Speaks at Intermountain Energy Summit in Idaho Falls

of transmission lines. According to Walje this delay occurred due to the slow approval of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Other obstacles included private landowners who expressed concern over the implementation of new transmission lines and did not allow access through their land. One solution would be to allow the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to make transmission lines siting decisions. It was noted that impacted communities would have to play a critical part in the resolution process.

Another roadblock may be newer energy storage and distribution technologies that are deterring investments in new transmission lines. Some would argue that we have become too reliant on outdated

technology. David Manning, a representative of the Government of Alberta, proposed that upgrading the power grid is long overdue. He joked that while Alexander Graham Bell would be astonished by an iPhone, Thomas Edison would have no problem understanding the current grid technology and suggesting upgrades.

The Intermountain Energy Summit proved successful in opening up regional dialogue. Ultimately, policies and actions that solve energy problems over time are the purpose of coming together to address these issues. This summit was a step in the right direction. Its wide breadth of collaboration and expertise is a testament that community leaders are willing and able to address, discuss, and extrapolate solutions to the interlocking problems brought to the surface by our energy and environmental demands.



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Legislative Update

support for a full year CR, especially if Republicans take control of the Senate, but senior appropriators are opposing the idea.

The full resolution can be found [here](#).

What is a CR?

- A continuing resolution (CR) is a stopgap measure that authorizes continued government funding for federal agencies or specific programs at, above, or below current funding levels when congress and the president do not pass a regular appropriations bills before the fiscal year begins.
- Anomalies are special inclusions in a CR to prevent what the President, Congress, or agencies may perceive as major programmatic, operational, or management to certain government operations if specific funding is not specified.
- CRs can be attractive vehicles for other substantive legislation because they are considered “must-pass” measures.

NDAA Update

Throughout August, Senate leaders on both sides of the aisle expressed hopes of completing consideration of the FY15 National Defense Authorization Act. But without an agreement limiting the number of amendments, the legislation quickly stalled. So far, nearly 150 amendments have been filed. Hundreds more could have been introduced that would have made substantial policy changes and led to uncomfortable votes for a number of Members shortly before the midterms.

In light of formal Senate passage, top Senate and House Armed Services Committee Members have already begun meeting in an attempt to hash out a compromise before the end of the year. Senate Chair Carl Levin (D-MI) and House Chair Buck McKeon (R-CA) expect to be able to reach a deal. Both are retiring at the end of this Congress and neither wants to be blamed for failing to enact a Pentagon authorization bill for the first time in 53 years.

There are a number of policy differences to be worked out, including funding for the Overseas Contingency Operations account, dealing with detainees in Guantanamo Bay, and providing for establishing a Manhattan Project National Historical Park.

SUMMARY FROM CHAPTER 2: A COMMUNITY HANDBOOK ON NUCLEAR ENERGY

ECA originally published “A Community Handbook on Nuclear Energy: Understanding Nuclear Energy and Alternatives for the Future” in 2012 with funding from the Department of Energy’s Office of Nuclear Energy. The handbook, put together with the assistance of many local government officials impacted by nuclear waste and storage issues, was updated earlier this year. Chapter Two, entitled “Local Government Role in Siting,” seeks to highlight the key role local officials and the communities they represent play in building support for nuclear development. It identifies steps governments should take as they consider whether to host nuclear power production and waste facilities to ensure local concerns are addressed.

Local governments should insist on a transparent, consent-based process when siting a new nuclear facility. This gives affected agencies, governments, local businesses, and most importantly citizens, a stake in the process, a chance to air grievances and have them address, and the opportunity to build confidence on all sides. There is no one-size-fits-all process to accomplish this, but local governments should pay heed to the example of Carlsbad, New Mexico. A community that is involved in every step of the process can mitigate any risks that may arise and maximize the benefits they receive.

It is local governments, not federal agencies or Congress, which should decide whether and on what terms communities will host nuclear facilities. They should be prepared to identify what they want and need from regulators and contractors. During the siting of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)

in Carlsbad, New Mexico, local politicians reached out to the state and federal government to host the repository. The community played a vital role in every stage of the process: site selection, testing, construction, legislation, permitting, startup, operation, and funding. In playing such a key role, the community was able to build and communicate

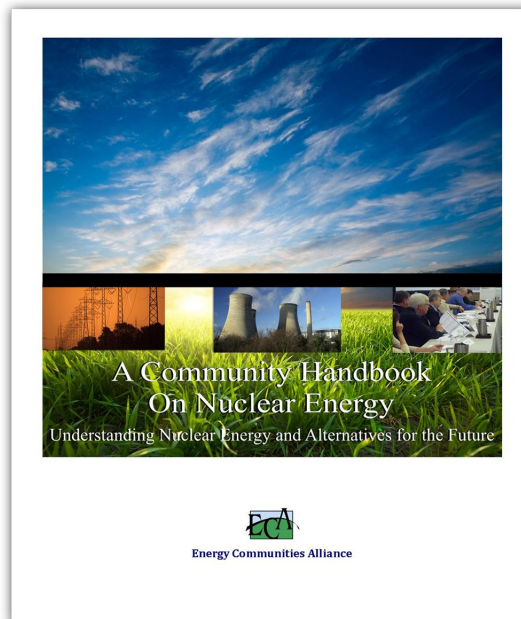
local support and encourage rigorous quality assurance that paid off through economic benefits.

Local governments play a front-line role in protecting the health, safety, lifestyle, and economic future of its citizens. As such, they have been identified by the Administration and Congress as key partners in the process of establishing nuclear power production and waste sites. They are in the unique position of being able to educate, protect, and negotiate on behalf of the citizens they

represent. Local government officials are in closer contact with their constituents and are essential to building credibility for the establishment of new nuclear sites and communicating citizens’ concerns.

Nuclear power production and waste facilities can bring many boons to a local community, and local governments have a key decision-making role to play as potential hosts. Without local support, these kinds of projects often fail, and governments can make or break the process of siting a new facility.

For more information or to request a copy of the Handbook, please contact Sharon Worley at sharon.worley@energyca.org or visit www.energyca.org.



HANFORD B REACTOR COLLOQUY

On September 26, 1944 the B Reactor at Hanford went critical for the first time. To commemorate the 70th anniversary of this event, Senators Murray and Cantwell delivered the following colloquy on September 18. This is the version that appeared in the *Congressional Record*.

COMMEMORATING HANFORD B's SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

SENATOR MURRAY:

Mr. President, I rise today with my colleague Senator Cantwell to commemorate the Hanford B Reactor in our home State of Washington as we approach the 70th anniversary of the world's first full-scale self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction. An essential part of the Manhattan Project, on September 26, 1944, the B Reactor was successfully energized to convert uranium into plutonium, an event known as going critical. The entire facility was built in only 13 months, and only a handful of the 50,000 workers at the site knew what was being assembled. The speed and precision of the construction of the facility remain an engineering marvel today. It was not until later that the majority of these workers learned they had played a key role in the history of nuclear materials production in the United States and helped the U.S. win World War II and the Cold War.

The B Reactor went on to operate for more than 20 years until 1968, making its mark on the 20th century. After ceasing operations, the B Reactor was to be encased in concrete like all the other reactors as part of the Hanford Reservation cleanup efforts. Given the B Reactor's historic role, I worked for many years with Senator Cantwell and the entire Washington delegation to ensure this piece of our nation's history is preserved for generations to come. After years of hard work, I was pleased when the U.S. Department of the Interior designated the B Reactor as a national historic landmark in 2008, and the B Reactor now receives more than 10,000 visitors a year from around the Nation and the world to see and experience this important part of world history. Today, the B Reactor remains a symbol for the Hanford Reservation, the entire Tri-Cities community, Washington State, and our Nation as a whole.

SENATOR CANTWELL:

Mr. President, I join my colleague Senator Murray in commemorating this important day in American history. Seventy years ago, when the B Reactor went critical, it forever changed history and thrust society into the Atomic Age. On September 26, 1944 the Manhattan Project overcame a major obstacle when the B Reactor—the first full-scale nuclear reactor—proved that it was possible to develop plutonium in large quantities, and the world was forever transformed. Our constituents in Washington State are reminded of that change daily, as the workers at the Hanford Reservation continue their efforts to clean up the legacy of the B Reactor and the eight other reactors built and operated at Hanford. The history of this fateful day and the entire Manhattan Project must be remembered so that our Nation has the opportunity to reflect on and learn from the important lessons this facility has to offer.

Our collective work to designate the B Reactor as a national historic landmark is a great start, but the Manhattan Project story cannot be told at the B Reactor alone. This is why I am working with Senator Murray and our colleagues in Tennessee and New Mexico to establish the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. The Manhattan Project National Historical Park Act would commemorate the historic achievements made by the workers at the Hanford Reservation and at other Manhattan Project sites across the country. The men and women who worked on the B Reactor played an unforgettable role in our Nation's history, and it is important that we remember their lasting impact.

SENATOR MURRAY:

I commend Senator Cantwell for her work on the Manhattan Project National Historical Park Act and will continue to push this legislation forward with our colleagues in Congress. The 70th anniversary of the world's first full-scale nuclear reactor going critical is a fitting tribute and reminder that this landmark moment in history should be preserved for future generations through the creation of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park.

Intergovernmental Meeting with the U.S. Department of Energy

NOVEMBER 12-14, 2014

HOTEL MONTELEONE
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA



The 2014 Intergovernmental Meeting with DOE will be held in New Orleans. The meeting will be held on November 12-14 at the Hotel Monteleone. The registration cost for the meeting is \$245.00. ECA members should contact Allison Finelli at allison@energyca.org for more information on the meeting.

ECA will hold a board meeting and elections on Wednesday, November 12 from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm. The Plenary Sessions of the Intergovernmental Meeting will start at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, November 12. The Plenary Session will continue all day Thursday, November 13. Some other Intergovernmental Groups plan to meet on Friday, November 14, but ECA will not hold any events that day.

ECA will hold a Board meeting and Executive Board Elections at the Intergovernmental Meeting on Wednesday, November 12. Please contact Amy Fitzgerald at AFitzgerald@oakridgetn.gov, Pam Larsen at plarsen@ci.richland.wa.us, or Rick McLeod at rick.mcleod@srsro.org by October 20, 2014 if you would like to nominate someone for the ECA Executive Board.

The participating intergovernmental groups will be ECA, Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG), National Conference of state legislatures (NCSL), National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices, and State and Tribal Government Work Group (STGWG).

Meeting Information:

At the meeting participants will discuss EM planning budgets, DOE waste management policy and strategies, America's nuclear future, and interagency and intergovernmental coordination and decision making. Top DOE-EM officials and other intergovernmental representatives will address participants.

Reimbursement information:

ECA will pay for the travel and the per diem of **two people per ECA local government member community and one person per affiliate member**. Please note that all reimbursement claims must adhere to GSA regulations. In addition, ECA may be able to assist other local government officials interested in attending the meeting on a case by case basis. Although ECA will only reimburse two individuals from each member community, each community is free to send as many delegates as they want to the meeting.

If you are requesting reimbursement, please send the names and titles of the individuals from your community that will be attending to allison@energyca.org. ECA may be able to reimburse additional members from a community to attend the event (with prior written approval from ECA staff). At this time ECA is not able to reimburse you for the registration fee for the conference, but ECA may be able to provide some assistance with registration fees once we determine how many ECA members will attend the meeting.

All flights over \$600.00 must be approved by ECA Staff. ECA is not able to reimburse you for rental cars for this meeting.

OFFICIALS DISCUSS NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING



On Monday, September 15, the United States Institute of Peace hosted a conference commemorating the United Nations International Day Against Nuclear Testing, which was August 29. The event was sponsored by the Embassy of Kazakhstan and cosponsored by the Arms Control Association, Project for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, The ATOM Project, the Embassy of Canada, and Green Cross International.

The event, entitled, “Nuclear Weapons Testing: History, Progress, Challenges,” featured high ranking government officials and experts who discussed the security and human dimension of nuclear testing as well as the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Energy Secretary Moniz noted that the United States will continue to observe its nuclear test explosion moratorium which has been in place since 1992. He also underscored the Administration’s commitment to ratifying and entering into force the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Moniz said it would “lay the groundwork for a world with diminished reliance on nuclear weapons, reduced nuclear competition, and eventual nuclear disarmament.” The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization’s (CTBTO) system of monitoring stations has already been beneficial in verifying weapons tests in North Korea.

He also reiterated President Obama’s vision of elimination and securing nuclear material and reducing nuclear stockpiles. Since the President made that commitment in 2009, the U.S. has partnered with 26 countries and Taiwan in an effort to remove more than 3,000 kilograms of highly enriched uranium and plutonium – enough material for more than 100 weapons – from those countries. Last December, according to the Secretary, the U.S. also reached a milestone in the “Megatons to Megawatts” program with the final delivery of low enriched uranium from 500 metric tons of HEU from dismantled Russian nuclear weapons. Moniz says he remains committed to building a sustainable, secure nuclear energy industry and concluded his remarks by saying the world would be a “more secure place if nuclear testing is relegated to the pages of history.”

During the first panel discussion, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs Andy Weber spoke about the role national laboratories played in ridding Kazakhstan of nuclear material. He specifically mentioned visiting storage and testing facilities in March 1994 with an expert from Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Nearly 600 kilograms of HEU was shipped to Oak Ridge facility Y-12 where it was down-blended for use by the power industry. After the quiet success of down-blending this enormous amount of material, Kazakhstan officials entrusted the United States to decommission the BN-350 reactor at Aktau, including the removal of more than three tons of weapons-grade plutonium and 300 tons of spent fuel. The material is currently stored under IAEA safeguards but was enough for nearly 800 materials.

Later in the day, Undersecretary for Nuclear Security and NNSA Administrator Frank Klotz noted that the development of the American nuclear weapon and arms control policy was a truly multiagency responsibility. The challenges of NNSA and its associated laboratories are to guarantee the safety, security, and effectiveness of America’s remaining stockpile without testing and to find ways to detect clandestine nuclear explosive testing.

Because no weapons have been developed since the Cold War, most of the U.S. stockpile was originally produced on average 25 to 30 years ago. NNSA has had to field a suite of new technologies to understand the effects of aging and highlight the needs for upgrading weapons as missile lives have been lengthened. Klotz said that, ironically, because of the lack of continued deployment and updating of new weapons, scientists better understand how they work today than they did before the testing moratorium.

During the Q&A session, CRS expert Jonathan Medalia asked how NNSA would give senators confidence that the U.S. can maintain its arsenal

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Officials Discuss Nuclear Weapons Testing

without testing should the CTBT be presented for ratification again. Klotz said his agency can make every effort to inform the public and Congress of the importance of the Stockpile Stewardship Program, its plan, and ensure Congressmen and their staff visit national laboratories and the Nevada National Security Site.

The event concluded with a presentation of the work of the CTBTO and an entreaty for attendees and other to sign an ATOM Project petition to bring the CTBT into full force to end further nuclear weapons developments.

More information on the event can be found [here](#), along with an op-ed by the event organizers [here](#).

Information regarding the Stockpile Stewardship Program can be found [here](#).

SENATE CONFIRMS DOE DEPUTY SECRETARY

On Thursday, September 18, the Senate confirmed Dr. Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall as the Department of Energy's Deputy Secretary.

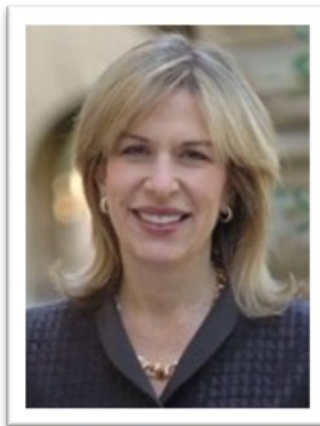
Dr. Sherwood-Randall has been a top national security advisor for the Obama Administration for six years and was considered for the top Department of Defense policy job earlier this year. Since April 2013, she has served on the National Security Council as the White House Coordinator for Defense Policy, Countering Weapons of Mass destruction, and Arms Control. From 2009 to 2013, she served as the principal advisor on Europe, covering NATO, the EU, and OSCE.

Prior to joining the Obama Administration, Sherwood-Randall was a senior research scholar at Stanford University from 2000 to 2008 and a founding principal in the Harvard-Stanford Preventive Defense Project from 1997-2008. She was also an adjunct senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations from 2004-2008.

"She has been the White House point person on the nuclear weapons complex, and it's been a

complicated task because it's where the Energy Department and the Pentagon meet," said Ashton B. Carter, who as deputy secretary of defense until December often worked with Ms. Sherwood-Randall. "She's a superb organizer, and she'll need that skill — both in the nuclear complex and in the management of the tremendous changes brought about by the new exploitation of petroleum, and its consequences."

"Liz's confirmation comes at a historic time in our nation's energy evolution," said Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz. "She joins us with deep expertise in the Department's nuclear security mission, including both nuclear weapons and countering proliferation. Her extensive public service and recent responsibilities on the White House National Security team position her to contribute to the Department's energy and security missions in a major way, both domestically and internationally. I thank the Senate for their attention to Liz's nomination, and look forward to working closely with her as a key, trusted colleague."



Dr. Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall

NRC HOLDS BRIEFING ON MANAGEMENT OF LLW, HLW AND SNF; STAFF SAYS CONSOLIDATED INTERIM STORAGE “DOABLE” UNDER EXISTING REGULATIONS

This month, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) held a briefing to provide Commissioners an overview of the management of low-level waste (LLW), high-level waste, and spent nuclear fuel (SNF). Interim storage issues featured prominently and NRC staff said they believe consolidated interim storage is “doable” under existing regulations, adding that they are ready to review facility applications.



Chairman
Allison Macfarlane



Commissioner
Kristine Svinicki



Commissioner
William Ostendorff

Chairman Allison Macfarlane, Commissioner Kristine Svinicki, and Commissioner William Ostendorff were present for two panels – one comprised of external witnesses and one comprised of NRC staff. The two new commissioners recently confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Stephen Burns and Jeffrey Baran, were not present.

Jeff Williams, Project Director for Nuclear Fuels Storage and Transportation in DOE’s Office of Nuclear Energy, was on hand to outline his office’s priorities. Recognizing the need for legislative change, Williams explained his office’s overarching aim is to develop options for an integrated interim storage design, with a shorter-term goal of completing a topical safety analysis report (TSAR) to allow NRC to identify uncertainties and prepare for a DOE application. He noted, as he has before, that his office is prioritizing SNF from decommissioned reactors. Williams said work continues to prepare for transportation on a large scale, including developing a new routing tool to support stakeholder interactions. DOE is also looking at Section 180(c) of the Nuclear Waste

Policy Act (NWSA), regarding funding and training for jurisdictions affected. Section 180(c) states:

“The Secretary [of Energy] shall provide technical assistance and funds to States for training for public safety officials of appropriate units of local government and Indian tribes through whose jurisdiction the Secretary plans to transport spent nuclear fuel, high-level radioactive waste... Training shall cover procedures required for safe routing transportation of these materials, as well as procedures for dealing with emergency response situations.”

In addition, DOE-NE is evaluating cask designs for waste storage and transportation, as well as the design of rail cars for trains carrying SNF.

Charles Maguire, Director of the Radioactive Materials Program of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), spoke next about LLW management and disposal in Texas. Maguire highlighted the Waste Control Specialists (WCS) site in Andrews County which provides treatment, storage, and disposal of LLW and mixed low-level radioactive waste. The site was licensed in 2009 and in 2010 Andrews County issued a \$75 million general obligation bond to WCS to finance construction of the facilities.

Maguire explained that there are a number of reasons the community and state support the site. The license is very comprehensive (with 200 conditions), the state agency participates in regular planning meetings, and the state is compensated for risk with financial assurance reviewed annually and adjusted for inflation and current site requirements. At this time, the requirements are at \$85.3 million. WCS has created \$16 million in-state revenue to date. At the local level, WCS offers economic diversity, supports over 160 full-time jobs in Andrews County, and has created \$4 million in-county revenue. During Q & A, Commissioner

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

NRC Holds Briefing on Management of LLW, HLW and SNF

Ostendorff asked why there was less controversy in Andrews County than expected and how WCS communicates with the community. Maguire responded that since the beginning WCS has involved local leaders, they intentionally engage the community by answering questions, providing data when asked, and they operate with transparency.

Thomas Cotton, Vice President of Complex Systems and an expert on spent fuel management issues, agreed that an integrated waste management system is necessary and identified a number of issues that need to be considered in developing regulations regarding centralized storage. These included addressing the different types of canisters used for waste, the time it takes for them to be cooled and moved, and analysis of where/how waste will be repackaged. Nigel Mote, Executive Director of the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (NWTRB), similarly urged that more work be done on fuel storage in casks. He also promoted an upcoming meeting of the Board at the Savannah River Site in October where DOE's management of federal HLW will be discussed.

The external panel ended with a presentation by Jim Williams from the Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB), one of four regional groups working with Jeff Williams at DOE on issues related to the transportation of nuclear waste. He acknowledged the need for DOE's work on transportation, noting that the issues require substantial coordination with states and long lead times. He cautioned that risk based assessments will also require understanding the limitations of waste characterization, acknowledging that the number of affected communities and the potential impacts for them are

undetermined, that there will be logistical complexity and that a lack of trust still exists. Williams added that transportation and geography must be linked in an integrated program and a good answer will be needed for the question, "Why is it necessary to ship through us?"

During Q&A, NRC commissioners noted that they cannot advocate for changed policies. Discussion focused instead on technical issues related to moving waste from where it currently sits to a consolidated interim storage site, the cost of moving fuel, rail adequacy and safety.

The second panel featured four NRC staff members and discussion of how they are integrating activities across the fuel cycle. The staff remarked that they are mindful of DOE's efforts to develop a strategy for addressing SNF and HLW and of the potential impacts for the NRC. Larry Camper, the Director of the Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection, addressed LLW management and disposal. He stated that a comprehensive legislative and regulatory structure exists to address LLW. He added that while the NRC is not responsible for ensuring adequate disposal capacity, the staff believes sufficient disposal capacity exists for LLW but not for GTTC waste.

In regards to transportation issues, there was agreement that a robust framework exists and NRC should focus on working with stakeholders to do education and engender trust. The NRC will continue to move forward, looking at the regulatory framework and information needed to address storage and transportation beyond 120 years. Chairman Macfarlane said that she was concerned, however, that there are no real disposal options for GTTC waste currently, and said she looked forward to a staff paper looking on the issue.

A copy of the meeting transcript and slides used by panelists can be found [here](#).



Bulletin Ideas?

**Would you like to have stories featured in the next Bulletin?
Send your ideas and photos to Allison@energyca.org**

NUCLEAR WASTE REVIEW BOARD TO DISCUSS SRS

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board announced it will meet in Augusta, Georgia on Wednesday, October 29, 2014 to discuss operations at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The agenda, which has not yet been publically released, will focus on reviewing the Department of Energy's (DOE) management of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste storage and progressing at the site. The Board will particularly examine waste storage at L Basin, alternatives for dry storage, and issues related to the aging of facilities at the site.

SRS has been the subject of a lot of attention in recent weeks. Earlier this month, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control denied a DOE request to postpone the closure of two storage tanks at the site until the end of 2016. The state says such a postponement will incur fines.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, the site's management and operations contractor, also announced late last month it had completed the dissolution of Sodium Reactor Experiment fuel. Nearly 150 bundles of used nuclear fuel from the L Area Disassembly Basin have been dissolved and the resulting solution will be transferred to the Defense Waste Processing Facility at SRS.

For those planning to attend the Board meeting, reservations must be made by October 10, 2014. The final meeting agenda will be released approximately one week before the meeting. Time will be made to allow for public comments.

More information on the meeting can be found [here](#).

TEXAS TO REVIEW GTCC RULES

This month, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) set in motion a process that could allow for the disposal of "Greater Than Class C Waste" (GTCC) in the state. GTTC waste is the most highly radioactive material classified as low-level waste by federal regulators. The move, set in motion by a request from Waste Control Specialists LLC (WCS) which operates one of the few low-level radioactive waste disposal sites in the country, would allow the Commission to amend state regulations to bring them in line with state and federal statutes.

WCS argued that certain existing regulations concerning low-level radioactive and federal facility waste are inconsistent with the Texas Radiation Control and the federal Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy amendments Act of 1985. Current Texas regulations define the term "federal facility waste" differently than state law, EPA, and other relevant agencies do. WCS's request also suggested proposed amendments to Texas' regulations.

TCEQ Commissioners unanimously agreed to set in forth a rulemaking process that would involve stakeholder meetings. TCEQ staff agreed that certain rules "may not comport" with federal policies but were reluctant to comment on the proposed amendments without input from others, especially the Department of Energy and Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

2014 Calendar of Events



September 26	70 th Anniversary of B-Reactor
September 30	End of FY 2014
October 1	Beginning of FY 15
October 20-23	Exchange Monitor Decisionmaker's Forum
October 20-24	National Nuclear Science Week 2014
November 4	Midterm Elections
November 12-14	Intergovernmental Meeting, New Orleans, LA. For more information contact Allison Finelli at Allison@energyca.org .



1101 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202.828.2423
Fax: 202.828.2488
Email: bulletin@energyca.org

ECA Articles

Allison Finelli, Deputy Executive Director
Kara Colton, Director of Nuclear Energy Programs
Devon Hill, Program Manager

Layout and Design

Sharon M. Worley, ECA Staff Assistant

Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) Bulletin

1101 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20036

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